C. Amendments to the Claims

1-10 (Cancelled).

11 (New). An outboard motor lift assembly enabling boats operated in shallow water to resist motor damage from contact with underwater impediments, the motor lift assembly comprising;

a rigid plate adapted to be secured to the transom of the boat;

a rigid motor mount spaced apart from said plate upon which an outboard motor may be mounted;

linkage means for dynamically interconnecting said motor mount to said plate so that the motor mount and a motor supported thereon may move vertically, said linkage means comprising:

a pair of upper bar links;

a pair of lower bar links;

a first bracket assembly disposed on the motor mount pivotally connected to ends of said upper bar links and said lower bar links;

a second bracket assembly disposed on said plate pivotally connected to opposite ends of said upper bar links and said lower bar links;

a manual lift assembly for enabling selective vertical movements of the motor mount and a motor mounted thereon, said manual lift assembly comprising:

a displaceable lift bar transversely extending beneath said linkage means for selectively contacting said lower bar links;

a handle moveable within the boat for selectively raising and lowering said lift bar, thereby manually raising said motor;

a selectively engageable ratchet system for controlling the handle, thereby at least temporarily maintaining a predetermined, manually selected vertical position of said motor; and,

spring means for assisting a user in lifting said motor, said spring means comprising at least one tensioned spring for normally biasing the motor mount and the motor borne thereby upwardly relative to the boat.

12 (New.) The motor lift as defined in claim 11 wherein said upper links are tied together by an upper cross bar, and said lower links are tied together by a lower cross bar, said upper and lower cross bars being free to move independently from and without contact with said transverse lift bar.

13 (New). An outboard motor lift assembly enabling boats operated in shallow water to resist motor damage from contact with underwater impediments, the motor lift assembly comprising;

a rigid plate adapted to be secured to the transom of the boat;

a rigid motor mount spaced apart from said plate upon which an outboard motor may be mounted;

linkage means for dynamically interconnecting said motor mount to said plate so that the motor mount and a motor supported thereon may be selectively positioned vertically by an operator or may rise vertically without operator assistance in response to contact with an underwater impediment, said linkage means comprising:

upper bar links;

lower bar links;

first bracket means disposed on the motor mount for pivotally mounting ends of said upper bar links and said lower bar links;

second bracket means disposed on said plate pivotally for pivotally mounting opposite ends of said upper bar links and said lower bar links;

a manual lift assembly for enabling selective vertical movements of the motor mount and a motor mounted thereon, said manual lift assembly comprising:

a displaceable lift bar transversely that operates independently from said linkage means and extends beneath the linkage means for selectively contacting said linkage means to manually displace the motor mount;

a handle moveable within the boat for selectively raising and lowering said lift bar, thereby manually vertically moving said motor mount;

a selectively engageable ratchet system for controlling the handle position, thereby at least temporarily maintaining a predetermined position of said motor mount; and,

spring means for assisting a user in lifting said motor mount, said spring means comprising at least one tensioned spring for normally biasing the motor mount and the motor borne thereby upwardly relative to the boat.

14 (New.) The motor lift as defined in claim 13 wherein said upper links are tied together by an upper cross bar, and said lower links are tied together by a lower cross bar, said upper and lower cross bars being free to move independently from and without contact with said transverse lift bar.